



# Tempe Public Art

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**Mary Lucking**

*Contours and Crossings, 2011*

Rusted steel, sandblasted  
and stained concrete

**Location:**

Crosscut Canal Multi-use Path  
Papago Park

**Artist Website:**

[www.LizardAcres.com](http://www.LizardAcres.com)

Photo: Michael Lundgren

**Description:** Three sculptural bridges offer walkers places to pause and notice the spectacular landscape at passage points across the Crosscut Canal in Tempe's Papago Park. The mile-long stretch of the Crosscut Canal Multi-use Path winds through a wide variety of manmade and natural environments, and each bridge reflects its unique site. The North Bridge features sculptural perforated panels set into a truss bridge. The ripple forms echo the movement of the water below, and the subtle form is low to the water to keep views of the red-rock mountains above. The Middle Bridge features two arch forms with built-in seating, dramatically cantilevered over the water, echoing the form of a nearby dam. The South Bridge is located in a more natural, shady point in the park. The wood deck and flared arcs of perforated steel provide a softer-feeling bridge that melts into the landscape, opening up in the center, giving walkers a view of the natural-banked canal. While all three bridges are large, sculptural pieces, the choice of materials, dimensions and forms help them merge with the landscape, letting the natural surroundings shine. *Contours and Crossings* in Crosscut Canal earned the City of Tempe a Valley Forward Environmental Excellence Award of Merit, and was recognized as an outstanding public art project by the Americans for the Arts' Public Art Network's (PAN) Year in Review program in 2012.

**Artist biography:** Lucking creates artworks for people to share. Her work ranges from large-scale, permanent artworks to temporary interactive installations. Her projects include art incorporated into urban and rural walking and biking trails, public transit stations, college campuses and neighborhood parks. Three of her artworks have received Americans for the Arts Public Art Year in Review awards. Lucking holds a Bachelor of Arts degree, cum laude, in Architecture from Wellesley College and a Master of Fine Arts in Art and Technology from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

**Funding:** This project was funded through the City of Tempe Municipal Arts Fund with the support of the Tempe Municipal Arts Commission.

[www.tempe.gov/PublicArt](http://www.tempe.gov/PublicArt)